

GreenList

*Energy & Environmental news brought to you
weekly by the Sustainable Solutions Division
of the DC Energy Office*

February 20–26, 2006



Event Reminder

Climate & Global Change Assessment

February 27–28, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

[National Academies of Science](#)

500 5th Street, NW, D.C.

- Discuss with U.S. Climate Change Science Program representatives their expectations of this committee.
- Learn about conclusions from other evaluations of Global Change Assessments.
- Contact [Rachel Shiflett](#), 202-334-3479.

What You Can Do

Not Buy Bottled Water

- The U.S. uses 1.5 million barrels of oil a year to make bottles from polyethylene terephthalate; 86% are landfilled or incinerated.
- Water shipped long distances, even in areas where tap water is safe to drink, can cost up to 10,000 times more than healthy tap water.
- Members of the United Nations plan to halve the number of people who lack reliable access to safe drinking water by 2015.

Read: [Bottled Water: What a Waste](#)

[Bottled Water: Nectar of the Frauds?](#)

New Web Resource

NRDC: Building Green

The National Resources Defense Council has launched this new Web-based resource:

“Building Green: From Principle to Practice.”

The market for high-performance homes and workplaces is soaring. Explore this Web site to find out how building green can boost your bottom line. Get tips for streamlining design and construction. Learn which strategies deliver the biggest paybacks. And discover ways to get your project noticed.

News

Focus: The Climate of Fear

Times Online — February 19, 2006

Scientists used to think climate change took centuries. But evidence presented today at the world's biggest science conference will indicate it can happen frighteningly fast.

Dean Kamen Segues into Water and Electricity

Treehugger — February 18, 2006

Forget the side trip on the Segway, which did not revolutionize transportation and change the world. Others of Dean Kamen's inventions have, and continue to do so. In 1993, a product of the year was his water purifier; his latest idea for the third world is his sterling engine powered electricity generator that can be powered by anything, including the omnipresent cow patties in India. Put them together and you could have a revolution.

Olympic Flame Burns Bright Despite Global Warming Anniversary

Yahoo! — February 16, 2006

The Olympic flame continued burning at full force Thursday as organizers ignored a request from environmentalists that it be turned down in honor of the first anniversary of a key global warming treaty.

Xerox PARC Takes on Clean, Green Technology

WorldChanging — February 16, 2006

The Palo Alto Research Center, the storied Xerox subsidiary responsible for many of the computer world's breakthrough technologies, is making a move into clean technology and sustainable products and services. It's a watershed moment of sorts: the birthplace of today's user-friendly computing wants to be the birthplace of tomorrow's clean and green innovations.

Please Lord, Build These Cars

Treehugger — February 16, 2006

As we wait for more electric vehicles, hybrids, and small, efficient cars, as well as bemoan the execution of EVs by their very makers, we should remind ourselves that matters can always be taken into our own hands.

Carbonfund.org Launches Climate Challenge

CSRwire — February 14, 2006

February 16th is the [first] anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol taking effect. Contrary to what some predicted, the sky has not fallen, and the vast majority of the industrialized world is taking significant steps toward reducing their carbon dioxide emissions to reduce the threat of climate change.

New Way to Make Hydrogen for Fuel

Fuel Cell Works — February 14, 2006

Borrowing from two different research areas that he's pursued over his career, Sandia researcher Rich Diver has invented a whole new way to make hydrogen to power automobiles and homes. His invention, the Counter Rotating Ring Receiver Reactor Recuperator (CR5, for short), splits water into hydrogen and oxygen, using a simple, two-step thermochemical process.

Plug Pulled on Renewable Energy Gurus

Denver Post — February 14, 2006

The day Carol Tombari got fired plays in her head like a scene from a cheesy espionage thriller ... She was among the disappeared from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, where 31 workers were dismissed seven days after President Bush read the words "addicted to oil" off the teleprompter and announced yet another "Advanced Energy Initiative."

A Thirst for Knowledge

Grist Magazine — February 13, 2006

A Moldovan, two Bulgarians, and three Canadians walk into the desert. It's like the start of a bad joke, but this is a specific desert. They are in the company of 41 colleagues from 14 countries and the Palestinian Authority at a 10-day institute on water resources management. The event is sponsored by NATO, which understands that a future conflict in the Middle East—heck, in many places on the planet—could arise over natural resources. And water is the most embattled liquid, after oil.

Austria Puts its Energy into Plant Power

Los Angeles Times — February 13, 2006

Wood smoke curling from chimneys of an Alpine village encapsulates the picture postcard image of Austria. But the reality is fast becoming more high-tech: sleek, smoke-free boilers burning wood pellets or other biomass fuels to heat villages, factories, and urban housing, with a neutral effect on carbon emissions. In 2003, nearly 70% of Austria's domestically produced power came from renewable sources.

Color of the Future: Green

Syracuse Post-Standard — February 12, 2006

A soaring atrium drenches the Martin J. Whitman School of Management building with light that brightens even the deepest basement recesses. Sensis Corp. workers eat in a glass-walled cafeteria designed to blend with the wooded campus. They are two of the area's newest office buildings that have elements considered green or environmentally friendly.

South Africa Solar Research Eclipses Rest of the World

Independent Online — February 11, 2006

In a scientific breakthrough that has stunned the world, a team of South African scientists has developed a revolutionary new, highly efficient solar power technology that will enable homes to obtain all their electricity from the sun. The unique South African-developed solar panels will make it possible for houses to become completely self-sufficient for energy supplies.
